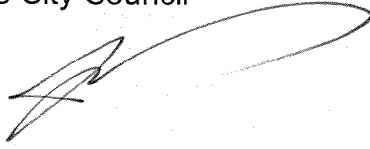


CITY OF ALAMEDA

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: John A. Russo
City Manager



Date: October 18, 2011

Re: Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Emergency Medical Services
First Responder Advanced Life Support and Ambulance Transport Service
Agreement with the County of Alameda

BACKGROUND

The Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance and Paramedic Provider Agreement between the City of Alameda and Alameda County expired on June 30, 2011. The City Council approved an amendment to extend that agreement on July 19, 2011. The amended agreement, which expires on October 31, 2011, provided the City and County time to negotiate a new agreement.

Negotiations for a new agreement have been taking place since July, 2011. The new agreement is effective November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2016, with an option to extend for an additional five years upon mutual agreement of the parties. Execution of the new agreement ensures that the Fire Department will continue to provide first responder ALS and ambulance transport services within the City's exclusive operating area (EOA).

DISCUSSION

Negotiations for the new agreement focused on the need for the County to recognize the statutory rights of the City to provide the levels and types of pre-hospital emergency care now being furnished. This agreement contains the elements necessary to ensure that the City maintains the exclusive right to provide first responder advanced life support and ambulance transport services without a competitive bid process. It also acknowledges that the County has established an EOA for the City. These elements are referenced in the California Health and Safety Code (CHSC) Sections 1797.201 and 1797.224 and in the new agreement. The agreement also provides the City with state action immunity under federal anti-trust laws.

Although the agreement is silent on the establishment of an EOA for non-emergency ambulance transport, the County has agreed that the City may establish this service of its own volition. This City service would not be subject to contractual obligation to the County, only compliance with the Alameda County Emergency Medical Services

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Ambulance Ordinance. This ordinance requires ambulances to be properly staffed, equipped, and maintained per Alameda County medical protocols. Discussions are currently underway with City staff to determine the feasibility of this type of service.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The prorated (November 2011 – June 2012) cost to continue this service for FY11-12 is \$582,418.42. This funding is budgeted in the Fire Department's operating budget in the Ambulance Transport program's contractual services account (001 3230 61060). For the ensuing years, the costs of providing this service will be funded through an Emergency Medical Services District special tax which was approved by the Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission on July 14, 2011.

The County has also agreed to accelerate the repayment schedule of the outstanding debt owed to the County by the City by 50% annually. This will be accomplished by crediting the City for two additional (from 4 to 6) first responder advanced life support (FRALS) units until the debt is paid in full. These terms are outlined in the new agreement. This results in reducing the repayment schedule by six years.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support and Ambulance Transport Service Agreement with the County of Alameda.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D'Orazi
Interim Fire Chief

Approved as to funds and account,



Fred Marsh
Controller

Exhibit:

1. Emergency Medical Services First Responder Advanced Life Support and Ambulance Transport Service Agreement—on file in the City Clerk's Office
2. Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Ambulance Ordinance—on file in the City Clerk's Office